

Va. Beach Soldiers to deploy to Guantanamo Bay

A platoon of approximately 30 Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard’s Virginia Beach-based 229th Military Police Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group has received a mobilization order to enter active federal service for duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to an announcement made July 31, 2015, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. The Soldiers will begin serving on federal active duty Oct. 15, 2015, and they expect to be in Cuba for about nine months.

Training and preparations will occur in a traditional National Guard status in Virginia during the late summer and early fall, then the Soldiers will transition to federal active duty and report to Fort Bliss, Texas, for approximately 30 to 45 days of additional training before heading out. Once they arrive in Cuba, they are scheduled to conduct security operations. Soldiers will conduct training at Fort Pickett for about three weeks in August.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/31/7840/>



Soldiers from the 229th Military Police Company conduct pre-mobilization training at Fort Pickett, Va., Aug. 7, 2015, in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

UMO course trains Soldiers, Coast Guard on logistics of deploying

National Guard Soldiers from D.C, Maryland and Virginia joined Coast Guard personnel from across the country for a Unit Movement Officer Course hosted by the Virginia Army National Guard’s G4-Defense Movement Coordination Branch Aug. 3-7, 2015, at Camp Pendleton Collective Training Center in Virginia Beach.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/08/11/7852/>

Air Component Commander promoted to brigadier general

Col. Dean A. Tremps, the Chief of Staff and Air Component Commander of the Virginia Air National Guard, reached a rare milestone in his 27-year military career with his promotion to brigadier general in a ceremony at the Langley Club Aug. 9, 2015, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/08/11/7862/>

29th ID trains for Warfighter Exercise during annual training

The 29th Infantry Division conducted final testing and integration of its computer systems and section operations July 11-24, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va., in preparation for a warfighter exercise to be held at Camp Atterbury, Ind., later in the year.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/08/12/7871/>

Va. Guard CBRN Soldiers share knowledge, experience in Tajikistan

Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard’s 34th Civil Support Team shared their knowledge and experience in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear operations with personnel from the Tajikistan Ministry of Defense CBRN leadership during a State Partnership Program exchange in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/08/07/7848/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Aug. 22, 2015

**Commonwealth ChalleNGe
Graduation**

Class 43 of the Commonwealth ChalleNGe will conduct their graduation ceremony at 9 a.m. Aug. 22, 2015, at Ocean Lakes High School in Virginia Beach, Va.

Aug. 22, 2015

**Va. Guard Officer Candidate
School Graduation**

Class 57 of the Virginia National Guard’s Officer Candidate School will conduct a graduation and commissioning ceremony at 1 p.m. Aug. 22, 2015, at the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute Auditorium at Fort Pickett, Va.

Va. Guard Airmen take part in joint exercise in Alaska

Airmen from the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing integrated with the 1st Fighter Wing from Joint Base Langley-Eustis June 15-26, 2015, to participate in Exercise Northern Edge 2015 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska. The event was Alaska's premier joint training exercise designed to practice operations, techniques and procedures as well as enhance interoperability among the services.

Hosted by Alaskan Command, Northern Edge brought together approximately 6,000 U.S. Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen from Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard units in a joint environment to train for crises response in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The exercise is designed to sharpen tactical combat skills, improve command, control and communication relationships and to develop interoperable plans and programs across the joint force.

"Northern Edge is the premier combat exercise for joint forces ... anywhere in the world," said Col. Charles Corcoran, the 3rd Wing commander and Air Expeditionary Wing commander for Northern Edge 2015. "The objective is to make sure our air combat forces are ready as a joint team and to be able to execute real-world operations anywhere in the Pacific."

The exercise is an exceptional training opportunity, explained Col. Pat McAtee, commander of the 192nd Operations Group.

"We have quite a few Guardsmen who come out here to participate in Northern Edge as part of the total force," McAtee said. "It allows them that unique experience to work as part of a large joint force team to do a mission much like we would if we were actually going to combat. This gives us an ability to work with our joint partners in a way we can't do at home station," McAtee explained.

The Virginia Guardsmen deployed with the 1st Fighter Wing to Alaska as part of the total force integration that gives them the opportunity to conduct their mission alongside their active duty



Senior Airman Greg Oliver, 94th Aircraft Maintenance Unit Crew Chief, 192nd Fighter Wing, Virginia Air National Guard, conducts a pre-flight checklist during Exercise Northern Edge June 15, 2015, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

counterparts.

"Integrating with the 1st Fighter Wing has been a great experience," said Senior Airman Sheila Smith of the 192nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit. "We work really well together. That means that I come in and get experience from the technicians as well as the active duty guys who do it every day."

Major participating units this year include U.S. Pacific Command, Alaskan Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, U.S. Army Pacific, Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Force Materiel Command, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command and U.S. Naval Reserve.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/29/7865/>



An Air Force F-22 Raptor from the 192nd Fighter Wing, Langley Air Force Base takes off for a training mission during Exercise Northern Edge June 15, 2015, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: 203rd RED HORSE celebrates 30th anniversary

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Photos: State CSM recognized for 33 years of service

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Photos: Va. Guard medics conduct sustainment training

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Photos: Lutz takes command of 529th CSSB

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